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Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/64/420). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 33rd and 41st meetings, on 10 November and 9 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.33 and 41).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.29 and A/C.2/64/L.57

2. At the 33rd meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/64/L.29), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 61/204 of 20 December 2006, 62/194 of 19 December 2007 and 63/219 of 19 December 2008 and other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,
>
> "*Recalling also* its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/64/420 and Add.1-9.

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"*Reiterating* that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

"*Noting* that one hundred ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-seven States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"*Recognizing* that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is essential for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recalling* the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

"*Bearing in mind* the fact that the deficit in the implementation of the Convention is a direct consequence of the scarcity of financial, technical and technological support provided to developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that the fulfilment of obligations by developing countries depends on the effective implementation by developed countries of their obligations regarding the provision of new and additional financial resources and the transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms,

"*Reaffirming* the need to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, as stipulated in the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"*Recalling*, in this regard, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which all States reaffirmed their commitment to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and to continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing,

"*Acknowledging* the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"*Noting* the important contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

"*Recalling* its resolution 63/219, in which it decided to convene during its sixty-fifth session, in 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government,

"*Convinced* that the high-level event on biodiversity, to be held on the eve of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, in 2010, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity, will provide a valuable opportunity to generate awareness at the highest level of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"2. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

"3. *Welcomes* the progress made in the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and, in this regard, recalls decision IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and calls upon States parties to participate in the meetings of the Working Group, to be held in November 2009 in Canada and in March 2010 in Colombia, in order to complete the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization, at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, and urges parties to make every effort to complete the work within the established time frame;

"4. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation, as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by parties and international organizations;

"5. *Encourages* all parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the discussions leading to an updated strategic plan for the Convention to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, bearing in mind that this strategic plan should cover all three objectives of the Convention;

"6. *Welcomes* the progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation;

"7. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, to promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such

knowledge, innovations and practices and to encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

"8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting of a strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, and, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision IX/11 and the annexes thereto, invites parties to submit, to the secretariat of the Convention, views on concrete activities and initiatives, including measurable targets and/or indicators to achieve the strategic goals contained in the strategy, and on indicators to monitor its implementation;

"9. *Welcomes also* decision IX/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the annexes thereto, by which the Conference, inter alia, adopted a set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, contained in annex I to the decision, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, contained in annex II;

"10. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

"11. *Invites* the remaining countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

"12. *Invites* the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to consider doing so, reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Protocol to support its implementation, and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

"13. *Calls upon* all Member States to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development by promoting action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

"14. *Decides*, in follow-up to its resolution 63/219, to convene a one-day high-level event on 20 September 2010, prior to the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, and in that regard:

"(a) Encourages all Member States to be represented at the highest possible political level by Heads of State or Government and participate actively in the event;

"(b) Invites heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status in the General Assembly to participate in the event, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the General Assembly;

"(c) Decides that the event will be structured around an opening plenary meeting followed by two parallel thematic panels in the morning and two parallel thematic panels in the afternoon on the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with particular emphasis on the post-2010 biodiversity strategy, the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and poverty eradication and the international regime for access and benefit-sharing, and a closing plenary meeting;

"(d) Also decides that the event will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly, and requests the President to prepare, in close consultation with the co-chairs of the round tables, a summary of the discussions held during the high-level event, for presentation at the closing plenary and for transmission, under his authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, as a contribution to raising awareness on the three objectives of the Convention;

"(e) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a background paper for the discussion panels, taking into account inputs of States parties to the Convention;

"15. *Calls upon* all relevant organs of the United Nations system, including functional commissions, regional commissions, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to consider the possibility of a special event or special focus in their annual governing body meetings or high-level ministerial segments and in their flagship publications scheduled for 2010 on the linkages between biodiversity, poverty alleviation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

"16. *Also calls upon* all relevant organs of the United Nations system, including functional commissions, regional commissions, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, to fully support, collaborate in and participate in, as appropriate, the activities envisaged in the strategy and implementation plan for the commemoration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the focal point for the International Year of Biodiversity;

"17. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional and international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions, and to link relevant activities to the International Year of Biodiversity;

"18. *Reaffirms* the importance of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Nagoya from 13 to 16 October 2010, and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya from 18 to 29 October 2010;

"19. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session information on the commemoration

of the International Year of Biodiversity, particularly the participation and contribution of all relevant United Nations organs, including functional commissions, regional commissions, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies;

"21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/64/L.57), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Denise McQuade (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.29.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a note from the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and a statement of programme budget implications prepared by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts with regard to draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.57.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur orally corrected the draft resolution.

6. Also at the 41st meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba, to which the Secretary of the Committee and the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs responded (see A/C.2/64/SR.41).

7. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, in her capacity as the facilitator of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/64/SR.41).

8. Also at its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.57, as orally corrected (see para. 10).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.29 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 61/204 of 20 December 2006, 62/194 of 19 December 2007 and 63/219 of 19 December 2008 and other previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling also its resolution 61/203 of 20 December 2006 on the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010,

Reiterating that the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Recognizing the potential contribution of other multilateral environmental agreements, including the biodiversity-related conventions, and of international organizations in support of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting both the positive and negative impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities on biodiversity and relevant ecosystems,

Noting also that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention and that one hundred and forty-seven States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[2]

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is important for sustainable development and poverty eradication and is a major factor underpinning the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling the commitments of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require action at all levels, including the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

Recognizing the continuing need for greater progress in the implementation of obligations and commitments under the Convention by States parties in order to achieve its objectives, and, in this regard, emphasizing the need to comprehensively

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

address the obstacles that impede the full implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and global levels,

Reaffirming that the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources is one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling, in this regard, the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] in which all States reaffirmed their engagement to fulfil commitments and significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 and continue ongoing efforts towards elaborating and negotiating an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing,

Noting the need for enhanced cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the "Rio Conventions"), while respecting their individual mandates, concerned by the negative impacts that loss of biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and climate change have on each other, and recognizing the potential benefits of complementarities in addressing these problems in a mutually supportive manner with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Acknowledging the contribution that the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, of the World Intellectual Property Organization, can make in enhancing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Noting the important contribution that South-South cooperation can make in the area of biological diversity,

Recalling its resolution 63/219, in which it decided to convene, during its sixty-fifth session in 2010, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government,

Convinced that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, to be convened at its sixty-fifth session, in 2010, with the participation of Heads of State, Governments and delegations, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, provides a valuable opportunity to generate awareness at the highest level of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Taking note of the reports of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

Noting the continuing efforts of the Life Web initiative promoted by the Government of Germany and other countries,

Noting also the initiative launched at the meeting of the environment ministers of the Group of Eight in Potsdam, Germany, in March 2007, to develop a study on the economic cost of the global loss of biodiversity,

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[3] See resolution 60/1.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[4]

2. *Urges* all Member States to fulfil their commitments to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, and emphasizes that this will require an appropriate focus on the loss of biodiversity in their relevant policies and programmes and the continued provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, including through the Global Environment Facility;

3. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation,[5] as a preliminary basis for concrete activities by parties and international organizations;

4. *Takes note* of decision IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on access and benefit-sharing, and the annexes thereto,[6] by which the Conference established a road map for the negotiations set out in that decision and, inter alia:

(a) Reiterated its instruction to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to complete the elaboration and negotiation of the international access and benefit-sharing regime at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in accordance with decisions VII/19 D[7] and VIII/4 A;[8]

(b) Further instructed the Working Group to finalize the international regime and to submit for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting an instrument or instruments to effectively implement the provisions of articles 15 and 8 (j) of the Convention and its three objectives, without in any way prejudging or precluding any outcome regarding the nature of such instrument or instruments;

5. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the progress made thus far in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, invites the Working Group to finalize the international regime, as instructed by the Conference of the Parties, and emphasizes the importance of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to be held in March 2010, and, in this regard, also notes with appreciation the offer of Colombia to host the meeting;

6. *Underlines* the need to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and, in this regard, notes the discussions on an intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and the holding of the second ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting on an intergovernmental

[4] A/64/202, chap. III.
[5] UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-TTSTC/1/5, annex III.
[6] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I.
[7] See UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex.
[8] See UNEP/CBD/COP/8/31, annex.

science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services, in Nairobi from 5 to 9 October 2009;

7. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Biodiversity Target, of the chairpersons of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, aimed at enhancing scientific and technical collaboration for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;

8. *Encourages* the efforts being made to implement the seven thematic programmes of work, as established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the ongoing work on cross-cutting issues;

9. *Encourages* all parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to contribute to the discussions leading to an updated strategic plan for the Convention to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, bearing in mind that this strategic plan should cover all three objectives of the Convention, and emphasizes that the revision of the strategic plan beyond 2010 is important for the enhanced implementation of the Convention;

10. *Notes* the progress made in developing a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development based on the framework for South-South cooperation;

11. *Reaffirms* the commitment, subject to national legislation, to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

12. *Notes* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting of a strategy for resource mobilization[9] in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, and, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision IX/11 and the annexes thereto,[6] invites parties that have not yet done so to submit, to the secretariat of the Convention, views on concrete activities and initiatives, including measurable targets and/or indicators to achieve the strategic goals contained in the strategy, and on indicators to monitor its implementation;

13. *Takes note* of decision IX/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the annexes thereto,[6] by which the Conference, inter alia, adopted a set of scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas in need of protection, contained in annex I to the decision, and scientific guidance for designing representative networks of marine protected areas, contained in annex II;

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[9] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, annex I, decision IX/11 B, annex.

14. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in achieving biodiversity targets, and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including, inter alia, through partnerships;

15. *Notes* the development of the gender plan of action under the Convention, and invites parties to support the implementation of the plan by the Convention secretariat;

16. *Takes note* of decision IX/16 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on biodiversity and climate change, and the annexes thereto,[6] by which the Conference, inter alia, established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change with a mandate to develop scientific and technical advice on biodiversity insofar as it relates to climate change;

17. *Also takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in its decision IX/16 on biodiversity and climate change;[6]

18. *Further takes note* of the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

19. *Encourages* developed countries parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute to the relevant trust funds of the Convention so as to enhance the full participation of the developing countries parties in all of its activities;

20. *Invites* the countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention;

21. *Invites* parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[2] to consider doing so, and reiterates the commitment of States parties to the Protocol to support its implementation and stresses that this will require the full support of parties and of relevant international organizations, in particular with regard to the provision of assistance to developing countries in capacity-building for biosafety;

22. *Invites* countries to consider ratifying or acceding to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;[10]

23. *Decides*, in follow-up to its resolution 63/219, to convene the one-day high-level meeting as close as possible to the opening of the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, and in that regard:

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[10] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the Conference of FAO, Thirty-first Session, Rome, 2-13 November 2001* (C2001/REP), appendix D.

(a) Encourages all Member States to be represented at the highest possible level, including by Heads of State or Government;

(b) Invites heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as heads of intergovernmental organizations and entities having observer status in the General Assembly, as well as the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, to participate, as appropriate, in the meeting, in accordance with the rules and procedures established by the General Assembly;

(c) Decides that the President of the General Assembly will consult with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations and the private sector, and with Member States, as appropriate, on the list of representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector that may participate in the meeting;

(d) Decides that the meeting will be structured around an opening plenary meeting followed by thematic panels in the morning and the afternoon, organized within existing resources, which will address in a balanced manner the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(e) Decides also that the meeting will be chaired by the President of the General Assembly and requests the President to prepare a summary of the discussions held during the high-level meeting, for presentation at the closing plenary and for transmission, under his authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, as a contribution to raising awareness of the three objectives of the Convention;

(f) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a background paper for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States;

24. *Encourages* all Member States, relevant regional and international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders to support, as appropriate, the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, including through voluntary contributions, taking advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of biodiversity for the achievement of sustainable development;

25. *Encourages* all relevant organs of the United Nations, including functional commissions and regional commissions, as well as all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in, as appropriate, the activities envisaged for the observance of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, taking into consideration the strategy and implementation plan for the commemoration of the Year prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through a special event or special focus in their annual governing body meetings or high-level ministerial segments and in their annual flagship publications scheduled for 2010;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 11 to 15 October 2010, and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya from 18 to 29 October 2010;

27. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session information on the implementation of resolution 61/203 and the parts of the present resolution relevant to the commemoration of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity;

29. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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Sustainable development: report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/64/420). Action on sub-item (g) was taken at the 34th and 41st meetings, on 12 November and 9 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.34 and 41).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.30 and A/C.2/64/L.65

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session" (A/C.2/64/L.30), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005, 61/205 of 20 December 2006, 62/195 of 19 December 2007 and 63/220 of 19 December 2008,

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"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Taking into account* Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'),

"*Recalling* the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

"*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority and principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries,

"*Recognizing* the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, and noting the need to consider possible options to address this need, including through the ongoing informal consultative process on the institutional framework for United Nations environmental activities,

"*Also recognizing* that the current global crises could adversely impact sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizing the need for the mobilization of adequate funding to address their environmental aspects,

"*Reiterating* that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries, in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Taking note* of the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit entitled 'Management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system',

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts to shift emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work;

"3. *Also welcomes* the decision to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building as an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme's Medium-term Strategy for the period 2010-2013, and stresses the need to advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"4. *Calls upon* Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

"5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global

Ministerial Environment Forum to be held from 24 to 26 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia;

"6. *Reaffirms* the need to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening of the scientific base of the Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, in the area of protection of the environment, including through the provision of adequate financial resources, and in this respect emphasizes the importance of building on the experiences gained from the preparation of different global environmental assessments as well as other relevant developments in this field;

"7. *Reiterates* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to conduct comprehensive, integrated and scientifically credible global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, in the light of the continuing need for up-to-date, scientifically credible, policy-relevant information on environmental change worldwide and in this regard, encourages the Programme to undertake a comprehensive integrated global assessment, leading to the preparation of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series, which should inform, as appropriate, the strategic directions of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"8. *Requests* relevant United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and invites the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building in their operational activities at country level, with a view to promoting, supporting and facilitating its implementation;

"9. *Stresses* that the financial and economic crisis must not delay the necessary global response to climate change and environmental degradation, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities;

"10. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and as reflected in the Medium-term Strategy 2010-2013;

"11. *Reiterates* its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

"12. *Also reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

"13. *Further reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the

Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session'."

3. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session" (A/C.2/64/L.65), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.30.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.65.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications with regard to draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.65.

6. Also at its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.65 (see para. 8).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.65, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, 53/242 of 28 July 1999, 56/193 of 21 December 2001, 57/251 of 20 December 2002, 58/209 of 23 December 2003, 59/226 of 22 December 2004, 60/189 of 22 December 2005, 61/205 of 20 December 2006, 62/195 of 19 December 2007 and 63/220 of 19 December 2008,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Taking into account Agenda 21[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[3]

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority and principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries,

Taking note of United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 25/4 of February 2009,[4] by which the Governing Council established a consultative group of ministers or high-level representatives, with the purpose of preparing a set of options for improving international environmental governance for the consideration of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eleventh special session, with a view to providing inputs to the United Nations General Assembly,

Taking note also of the developments in the area of global efforts in relation to chemicals management, including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and the preparations for the negotiations on the global legally binding instrument on mercury,

Reiterating that capacity-building and technology support to developing countries in environment-related fields are important components of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/64/25), annex I.

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Management review of environmental governance within the United Nations system",[5] and the note by the Secretary-General thereon,[6]

Taking note also of United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 25/10 on an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fifth session[7] and the decisions contained therein;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts, and encourages the further strengthening of efforts, to shift emphasis from delivery of outputs to achievement of results within its budget and programme of work, and, in this regard, takes note of the approval of the programme of work and the budget for the period 2010-2011;

3. *Underlines* the need to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building[9] with a view to achieving its objectives in the areas of capacity-building and technology support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and, in this regard, welcomes the decision to mainstream the Bali Strategic Plan as an integral part of the United Nations Environment Programme's medium-term strategy for the period 2010-2013, invites relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and multilateral environmental agreements to consider mainstreaming the Bali Strategic Plan in their overall activities, and calls upon Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to further advance and fully implement the Bali Strategic Plan;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to deepen its cooperation with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and as reflected in the medium-term strategy for the period 2010-2013;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, particularly through its Quick Start Programme, and invites Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to engage actively and cooperate closely to support the Strategic Approach implementation activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, including by providing adequate resources;

6. *Takes note with appreciation* of the offer of the Government of Indonesia to host the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum from 24 to 26 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia;

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[5] JIU/REP/2008/3.

[6] See A/64/83/Add.1-E/2009/83/Add.1.

[7] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/64/25).

[8] Ibid., annex I.

[9] See UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex.

7. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to hold a simultaneous extraordinary session of the Conference of the Parties on 22 and 23 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia, immediately before the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum;

8. *Reaffirms* the need, while recognizing the efforts and actions taken, to strengthen the scientific base of the United Nations Environment Programme, as recommended by the intergovernmental consultation on strengthening the scientific base of the Programme, including the reinforcement of the scientific capacity of developing countries, in the area of protection of the environment, including through the provision of adequate financial resources, and in this respect emphasizes the importance of building on the experiences gained from the preparation of different global environmental assessments as well as other relevant developments in this field;

9. *Recognizes* the global challenges posed by mercury, and, in this regard, takes note of the decision of the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee with the mandate to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury;[10]

10. *Reiterates* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to conduct comprehensive, integrated and scientifically credible global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, in the light of the continuing need for up-to-date, scientifically credible, policy-relevant information on environmental change worldwide and, in this regard, encourages the Programme to undertake a comprehensive integrated global assessment, leading to the preparation of the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series,[11] which should inform, as appropriate, the strategic directions of the United Nations Environment Programme;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation among the relevant United Nations organizations in the promotion of the environmental dimension of sustainable development, and to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and regional and subregional organizations, and welcomes the continued active participation of the Programme in the United Nations Development Group and the Environment Management Group, as well as in the United Nations Delivering as One exercise at the country level;

12. *Welcomes* the increased contributions to the Environment Fund, and reiterates its invitation to Governments that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions to the Environment Fund;

13. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), which underlines the need to consider the adequate reflection of all the administrative and management costs of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

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[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/64/25), annex I, decision 25/5.

[11] Ibid., decision 25/2.

14. *Also reiterates* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of the United Nations Environment Programme, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to the Programme and to the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eleventh special session".

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Sustainable development: sustainable mountain development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/64/420). Action on sub-item (h) was taken at the 33rd and 37th meetings, on 10 and 25 November 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.33 and 37).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.23 and Rev.1

2. At the 33rd meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Sustainable mountain development" (A/C.2/64/L.23), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/64/420 and Add.1-9.

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"*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003, 59/238 of 22 December 2004, 60/198 of 22 December 2005 and 62/196 of 19 December 2007,

"*Reaffirming* chapter 13 of Agenda 21 and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

"*Noting* the Bishkek Mountain Platform, the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

"*Noting also* the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ('Mountain Partnership'), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of fifty countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and ninety-six organizations from major groups, as an important multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

"*Noting further* the conclusions of the global meetings of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held, respectively, in Merano, Italy, in October 2003 and in Cusco, Peru, in October 2004, and the first Andean Meeting of the Andean Initiative, held in San Miguel Tucuman, Argentina, in September 2007,

"*Noting* the outcome of the meeting of the Adelboden Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions, which met in Rome from 1 to 3 October 2007,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development;

"2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, and recognizes the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as providers of some sources of renewable energy, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate positive, unaccounted economic benefits;

"3. *Recognizes* that mountains are highly sensitive indicators of global climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that is having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures;

"4. *Also recognizes* that sustainable mountain development is a key component in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in many regions of the world;

"5. *Stresses* the need for better integration of mountain issues in intergovernmental discussions on climate change, biodiversity loss and combating desertification in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Forum on Forests;

"6. *Notes with concern* that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest in a given country;

"7. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in their sustainable development strategies, and to promote integrated approaches to policies related to sustainable development in mountain regions;

"8. *Also encourages* Governments to integrate mountain sustainable development in national, regional and global policymaking and development strategies, including through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

"9. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and other forms of watershed degradation, and the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining, agriculture and the consequences of global climate change and loss of biodiversity are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

"10. *Underlines* the importance of sustainable forest management and the avoidance of deforestation, as well as the restoration of lost and degraded forest ecosystems of mountains, in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators;

"11. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the regional economy;

"12. *Recognizes* that climate change heavily impacts on sustainable agriculture in mountain regions, and calls upon Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to devise and implement measures to offset its negative impacts;

"13. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries, and

urges the international community to take concrete steps to support national and regional efforts to ensure the sustainable development of mountains;

"14. *Encourages* Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the awareness, preparedness and infrastructure to reduce risks of disasters and to cope with the increasing negative impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flow and earthquakes, and, in that sense, to actively observe the theme of International Mountain Day on 11 December 2009, which is 'Disaster Risk Management';

"15. *Also encourages* Governments, with the collaboration of the scientific community, mountain communities and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to study, with a view to promoting sustainable mountain development, the specific concerns of mountain communities, including the effects of global climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate and subsequently implement sustainable adaptation strategies to cope with the adverse effects of climate change;

"16. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

"17. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels, where appropriate, to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

"18. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in particular the rural population, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

"19. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

"20. *Encourages*, in this regard, Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including, inter alia, gender disaggregated indicators, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

"21. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement

of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

"22. *Recalls with satisfaction* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity, the overall purpose of which is the significant reduction of the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

"23. *Underscores* the need to take into account relevant articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"24. *Invites* States and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity through renewed political commitment and the establishment of appropriate multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms, and, in this regard, notes with satisfaction the collaboration established between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Forum to mobilize concerned governments and other stakeholders for more effective cooperation and to assist in building capacity for implementation of the programme of work;

"25. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approaches;

"26. *Invites* Member States and other relevant organizations to develop and implement mountain-related South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation programmes for the exchange of best practices, information and appropriate environmentally sound technologies;

"27. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship facing mountain communities;

"28. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries;

"29. *Underlines* the importance for sustainable development in mountains of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small- and

medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

"30. *Encourages* the further development of sustainable agricultural value chains and the improvement of mountain farmers' and agro-industry enterprises' access to and participation in markets, with the view to substantially increase the income of farmers, in particular smallholder and family farmers;

"31. *Emphasizes* that mountainous regions offer diverse opportunities for tourism, and notes that consumer demand is increasingly moving towards responsible and sustainable tourism;

"32. *Welcomes* the growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socio-economic benefits to local communities;

"33. *Notes* that public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide not only to highland communities, but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas, and underlines the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

"34. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and, in this context, encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

"35. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, that the Convention on the Protection of the Alps promotes constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, as well as its Declaration on Population and Culture, its Action Plan on the prevention of and adaptation to climate change in the Alps and its cooperation with other Conventions on the relevant subjects;

"36. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

"37. *Further notes with appreciation* the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among eight regional member countries of the Himalaya Hindu Kush region to foster action and change for overcoming mountain peoples' economic, social and physical vulnerability;

"38. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the statement of the

Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies, appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions, and the positive, unaccounted economic benefits they provide;

"39. *Stresses* the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and promoting educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of challenges to and best practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and in the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

"40. *Underlines* the importance of higher education in and for mountain areas, in order to expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in mountain areas, in this context recognizes recent and important initiatives at the regional level, such as the creation of three university campuses, in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, and the creation of the Himalayan University Consortium, and encourages similar efforts in other mountain regions around the world;

"41. *Encourages* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains in 2002 and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

"42. *Also encourages* Member States to collect and produce information and to establish databases devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research as well as development programmes and projects, to improve decision-making and planning and to develop long-term monitoring systems on biophysical and socio-economic impacts in order to provide a sound basis for future policy and decision-making taking into account the existing monitoring systems of the Rio Conventions;

"43. *Further encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, taking into account the efforts of the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

"44. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value added, and invites the Partnership secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the

Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session in 2010, including in regard to the thematic issues of agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa;

"45. *Notes with appreciation* in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;

"46. *Underscores* the need for improved strategic cooperation between the institutions and initiatives dealing with mountain development, such as the Mountain Forum, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Research Initiative and the International Mountain Society, and takes note with appreciation of the recent efforts in mainstreaming these organizations for better coordination, cooperation and impact;

"47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under a sub-item, entitled 'Sustainable mountain development', of the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At its 37th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Sustainable mountain development" (A/C.2/64/L.23/Rev.1), submitted by the representative of Switzerland, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam. Subsequently, Israel joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made a statement and orally corrected operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution by replacing the words "provide indications" with the words "provide sensitive indications".

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.23/Rev.1, as orally corrected (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/24 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed 2002 the International Year of Mountains,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/189 of 20 December 2000, 57/245 of 20 December 2002, 58/216 of 23 December 2003, 59/238 of 22 December 2004, 60/198 of 22 December 2005 and 62/196 of 19 December 2007,

Reaffirming chapter 13 of Agenda 21[1] and all relevant paragraphs of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 42 thereof, as the overall policy frameworks for sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting the Bishkek Mountain Platform,[3] the outcome document of the Bishkek Global Mountain Summit, held in Bishkek from 28 October to 1 November 2002, which was the concluding event of the International Year of Mountains,

Noting also the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions ("Mountain Partnership"), launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with benefits from the committed support of fifty countries, sixteen intergovernmental organizations and ninety-six organizations from major groups, as an important multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the various interrelated dimensions of sustainable development in mountain regions,

Noting further the conclusions of the global meetings of the members of the Mountain Partnership, held, respectively, in Merano, Italy, in October 2003 and in Cusco, Peru, in October 2004, and the first Andean Meeting of the Andean Initiative, held in San Miguel Tucuman, Argentina, in September 2007,

Noting the outcome of the meeting of the Adelboden Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions, which met in Rome from 1 to 3 October 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on sustainable mountain development;[4]

2. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing network of Governments, organizations, major groups and individuals around the world recognize the

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/C.2/57/7, annex.

[4] A/64/222.

importance of the sustainable development of mountain regions for poverty eradication, and recognizes the global importance of mountains as the source of most of the Earth's freshwater, as repositories of rich biological diversity and other natural resources, including timber and minerals, as providers of some sources of renewable energy, as popular destinations for recreation and tourism and as areas of important cultural diversity, knowledge and heritage, all of which generate positive, unaccounted economic benefits;

3. *Recognizes* that mountains provide sensitive indications of climate change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures;

4. *Also recognizes* that sustainable mountain development is a key component in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in many regions of the world;

5. *Encourages* greater consideration of sustainable mountain development issues in intergovernmental discussions on climate change, biodiversity loss and combating desertification in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa[7] and the United Nations Forum on Forests;

6. *Notes with concern* that there remain key challenges to achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty in mountain regions and protecting mountain ecosystems, and that populations in mountain regions are frequently among the poorest in a given country;

7. *Encourages* Governments to adopt a long-term vision and holistic approaches in their sustainable development strategies, and to promote integrated approaches to policies related to sustainable development in mountain regions;

8. *Also encourages* Governments to integrate mountain sustainable development in national, regional and global policymaking and development strategies, including through incorporating mountain-specific requirements in sustainable development policies or through specific mountain policies;

9. *Notes* that the growing demand for natural resources, including water, the consequences of erosion, deforestation and watershed degradation, the frequency and scale of natural disasters, as well as increasing out-migration, the pressures of industry, transport, tourism, mining and agriculture and the consequences of climate change and loss of biodiversity are some of the key challenges in fragile mountain ecosystems to implementing sustainable development and eradicating poverty in mountain regions, consistent with the Millennium Development Goals;

10. *Underlines* the importance of sustainable forest management, the avoidance of deforestation and the restoration of lost and degraded forest

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

ecosystems of mountains in order to enhance the role of mountains as natural carbon and water regulators;

11. *Notes* that sustainable agriculture in mountain regions is important for the protection of the mountain environment and the promotion of the regional economy;

12. *Expresses its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in mountain regions, especially those in developing countries, and urges the international community to take concrete steps to support national and regional efforts to ensure the sustainable development of mountains;

13. *Encourages* Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to improve the awareness, preparedness and infrastructure to reduce risks of disasters and to cope with the increasing adverse impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flow and earthquakes and, in this regard, to take advantage of opportunities provided by International Mountain Day on 11 December 2009, which is dedicated to disaster risk management;

14. *Calls upon* Governments, with the collaboration of the scientific community, mountain communities and intergovernmental organizations, where appropriate, to study, with a view to promoting sustainable mountain development, the specific concerns of mountain communities, including the adverse impact of climate change on mountain environments and biological diversity, in order to elaborate sustainable adaptation strategies and subsequently implement adequate measures to cope with the adverse effects of climate change;

15. *Underlines* the fact that action at the national level is a key factor in achieving progress in sustainable mountain development, welcomes its steady increase in recent years with a multitude of events, activities and initiatives, and invites the international community to support the efforts of developing countries to develop and implement strategies and programmes, including, where required, enabling policies and laws for the sustainable development of mountains, within the framework of national development plans;

16. *Encourages* the further establishment of committees or similar multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms at the national and regional levels, where appropriate, to enhance intersectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development in mountain regions;

17. *Also encourages* the increased involvement of local authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in particular the rural population, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector, in the development and implementation of programmes, land-use planning and land tenure arrangements, and activities related to sustainable development in mountains;

18. *Underlines* the need for improved access to resources, including land, for women in mountain regions as well as the need to strengthen the role of women in mountain regions in decision-making processes that affect their communities, cultures and environments;

19. *Encourages*, in this regard, Governments and intergovernmental organizations to integrate the gender dimension, including, inter alia, gender-disaggregated indicators, in mountain development activities, programmes and projects;

20. *Stresses* that indigenous cultures, traditions and knowledge, including in the field of medicine, are to be fully considered, respected and promoted in development policy and planning in mountain regions, and underlines the importance of promoting the full participation and involvement of mountain communities in decisions that affect them and of integrating indigenous knowledge, heritage and values in all development initiatives;

21. *Underscores* the need to take into account relevant articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity;[6]

22. *Recalls with satisfaction* the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity of a programme of work on mountain biological diversity,[8] the overall purpose of which is a significant reduction in the loss of mountain biological diversity by 2010 at the global, regional and national levels, and its implementation, which aims at making a significant contribution to poverty eradication in mountain regions;

23. *Invites* States and other stakeholders to strengthen implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity through renewed political commitment and the establishment of appropriate multi-stakeholder institutional arrangements and mechanisms, and in this regard notes with satisfaction the collaboration established between the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Mountain Partnership and the Mountain Forum to mobilize concerned Governments and other stakeholders for more effective cooperation and to assist in building capacity for implementation of the programme of work;

24. *Recognizes* that many developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, need to be assisted in the formulation and implementation of national strategies and programmes for sustainable mountain development, through bilateral, multilateral and South-South cooperation, as well as through other forms of collaborative approaches;

25. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchange of best practices, information and appropriate environmentally sound technologies for sustainable mountain development, and encourages Member States and other relevant organizations in this regard;

26. *Notes* that funding for sustainable mountain development has become increasingly important, especially in view of the greater recognition of the global importance of mountains and the high level of extreme poverty, food insecurity and hardship facing mountain communities;

27. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, the international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, all relevant United Nations conventions and their funding mechanisms, within their respective mandates, and all relevant stakeholders from civil society and the private sector to consider providing support, including through voluntary financial contributions, to local, national and

[8] UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21, annex, decision VII/27, annex.

international programmes and projects for sustainable development in mountain regions, particularly in developing countries;

28. *Underlines* the importance for sustainable development in mountains of exploring a wide range of funding sources, such as public-private partnerships, increased opportunities for microfinance, including microcredit and microinsurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts, and support for entrepreneurs seeking to develop small- and medium-sized businesses and, where appropriate, on a case-by-case basis, debt for sustainable development swaps;

29. *Encourages* the further development of sustainable agricultural value chains and the improvement of mountain farmers' and agro-industry enterprises' access to and participation in markets, with a view to substantially increasing the income of farmers, in particular smallholders and family farmers;

30. *Welcomes* the growing contribution of sustainable tourism initiatives in mountain regions as a way to enhance environmental protection and socio-economic benefits to local communities and the fact that consumer demand is increasingly moving towards responsible and sustainable tourism;

31. *Notes* that public awareness needs to be raised with respect to the positive and unaccounted economic benefits that mountains provide not only to highland communities, but also to a large portion of the world's population living in lowland areas, and underlines the importance of enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activity and of developing innovative means of financing for their protection;

32. *Recognizes* that mountain ranges are usually shared among several countries, and in this context encourages transboundary cooperation approaches, where the States concerned agree, to the sustainable development of mountain ranges and information-sharing in this regard;

33. *Notes with appreciation*, in this context, that the Convention on the Protection of the Alps[9] promotes constructive new approaches to the integrated, sustainable development of the Alps, including through its thematic protocols on spatial planning, mountain farming, conservation of nature and landscape, mountain forests, tourism, soil protection, energy and transport, as well as the Declaration on Population and Culture, the Action Plan on Climate Change in the Alps, cooperation with other convention bodies on relevant subjects and activities in the context of the Mountain Partnership;

34. *Also notes with appreciation* the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians,[10] adopted and signed by the seven countries of the region to provide a framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy coordination, a platform for joint strategies for sustainable development and a forum for dialogue between all involved stakeholders;

35. *Further notes with appreciation* the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which promotes transboundary cooperation among eight regional member countries of the Himalaya Hindu Kush region to foster action and

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1917, No. 32724.

[10] Available from www.carpathianconvention.org/text/htm.

change for overcoming mountain peoples' economic, social and physical vulnerability;

36. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in Mountain Regions project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the statement of the Adelboden Group in promoting specific policies, appropriate institutions and processes for mountain regions, and the positive, unaccounted economic benefits they provide;

37. *Stresses* the importance of building capacity, strengthening institutions and promoting educational programmes in order to foster sustainable mountain development at all levels and to enhance awareness of challenges to and best practices in sustainable development in mountain regions and in the nature of relationships between highland and lowland areas;

38. *Underlines* the importance of higher education in and for mountain areas in order to expand opportunities and encourage the retention of skilled people, including youth, in mountain areas, and in this context recognizes recent and important initiatives at the regional level, such as the creation of three university campuses, in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the creation of the Himalayan University Consortium, and encourages similar efforts in other mountain regions around the world;

39. *Encourages* the development and implementation of global, regional and national communication programmes to build on the awareness and momentum for change created by the International Year of Mountains in 2002 and the opportunity provided annually by International Mountain Day on 11 December;

40. *Encourages* Member States to collect and produce information and to establish monitoring systems on biophysical and socio-economic data devoted to mountains so as to capitalize on knowledge to support interdisciplinary research programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

41. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to further enhance their constructive efforts to strengthen inter-agency collaboration to achieve more effective implementation of the relevant chapters of Agenda 21,[1] including chapter 13, and paragraph 42 and other relevant paragraphs of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[2] taking into account the efforts of the Inter-Agency Group on Mountains and the need for the further involvement of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations University, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as international financial institutions and other relevant international organizations;

42. *Recognizes* the efforts of the Mountain Partnership implemented in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/61 of 25 July 2003, invites the international community and other relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to consider participating actively in the Mountain Partnership to increase its value added, and invites the Partnership secretariat to report on its activities and achievements to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth session, in 2010, including in regard to the thematic

issues of transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns;

43. *Notes with appreciation* in this context the efforts of the Mountain Partnership to cooperate with existing multilateral instruments relevant to mountains, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[7] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and mountain-related regional instruments such as the Convention on the Protection of the Alps[9] and the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians;[10]

44. *Also notes with appreciation* the ongoing efforts to improve strategic cooperation among the institutions and initiatives dealing with mountain development, such as the Mountain Forum, the Mountain Partnership, the Mountain Research Initiative and the International Mountain Society;

45. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item entitled "Sustainable mountain development" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

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Sustainable development: promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 53 (see A/64/420). Action on sub-item (i) was taken at the 35th and 41st meetings, on 17 November and 9 December 2009. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.35 and 41).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.33 and A/C.2/64/L.60

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" (A/C.2/64/L.33), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005 and 62/197 of 19 December 2007 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 10 parts, under the symbol A/64/420 and Add.1-9.

Please recycle

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Noting* that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 made a contribution to raising awareness of the increased role that new and renewable sources of energy can play in the global energy supply,

"*Reiterating* the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21, and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') concerning energy for sustainable development,

"*Recalling* the thematic debate of the General Assembly on energy efficiency, energy conservation and new and renewable sources of energy, held on 28 June 2009,

"*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of India to host the International Renewable Energy Conference in New Delhi from 27 to 29 October 2010,

"*Welcoming also* initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* that the development of new and renewable energy could play a significant role in the diversification of the energy matrix, achieving greater efficiency of energy production and consumption, accelerating economic growth and employment, with equity and social integration, ensuring energy access and availability, promoting energy cooperation and integration, rendering environmental benefits and achieving sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the increased use and promotion of all forms of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer important options for the provision of energy for sustainable development and increased access to modern energy services,

"*Noting* that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

"*Recognizing* the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

"*Noting* that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential, and

underscoring in this regard the need to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Emphasizing* the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

"*Reaffirming* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

"*Acknowledging* that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

"*Welcoming* efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

"*Noting with appreciation* the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which aims at promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of renewable energy,

"*Noting with appreciation also* regional mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and integration to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy, such as the PetroCaribe Alternative Energy Source Financing Fund, the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme and the New Partnership for Africa's Development energy initiative, inter alia,

"*Noting with concern* that millions of poor people in developing countries are unable to afford to pay for modern energy services, even when those services are available,

"*Emphasizing* the urgent need to remove barriers at all levels to the promotion and use of renewable energy,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase the share of new and renewable energy in the global energy supply matrix;

"3. Reaffirms the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"4. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into

consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

"5. *Also emphasizes* the need to intensify research in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

"6. *Further emphasizes* the need to accelerate the development, dissemination and deployment of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, and new and renewable energy technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms;

"7. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy, and calls on the international community to support those efforts in developing countries;

"8. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

"9. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

"10. *Welcomes* the efforts of some developing countries to establish national voluntary renewable energy and energy efficiency targets;

"11. *Calls upon* developed countries to significantly increase financial resources and provide technology transfer and capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

"12. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

"13. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, the small island developing States and African countries in their efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance and capacity-building;

"14. *Further calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of developing countries that are already developing and utilizing their energy resources, including new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to maintaining efficient and sustainable production of energy;

"15. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

"16. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

"17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and of the increased role they can play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

"18. *Recognizes* the need to provide financial and technical resources, as well as capacity-building and access to and transfer of technology, to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve access to affordable modern energy services and new and renewable energy for economic growth, human and social development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

"20. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

"21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution taking into account the views of Member States on actions taken towards and challenges to creating an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of renewable energy;

"22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy'."

3. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy"

(A/C.2/64/L.60), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Denise McQuade (Ireland), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.33.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chairperson, the Committee agreed to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.60.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur orally corrected the draft resolution by merging the twenty-first and twenty-second preambular paragraphs.

7. Also at its 41st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.60, as orally corrected (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.60, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.33 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/7 of 16 October 1998, 54/215 of 22 December 1999 and 55/205 of 20 December 2000, and recalling also its resolutions 56/200 of 21 December 2001, 58/210 of 23 December 2003, 60/199 of 22 December 2005 and 62/197 of 19 December 2007 on the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Reiterating the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and of Agenda 21,[3] and recalling the recommendations and conclusions contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[4] concerning energy for sustainable development,

Recalling with appreciation the Interactive Thematic Dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly on "Energy Efficiency, Energy Conservation and New and Renewable Sources of Energy" held on 18 June 2009 and its contribution to the intergovernmental dialogue on energy issues,

Welcoming the political impetus recently given to the development of new and renewable sources of energy worldwide, including in particular in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition,

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of India to host the Delhi International Renewable Energy Conference from 27 to 29 October 2010,

Welcoming further initiatives that aim to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services for sustainable development in order to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that the development of new and renewable energy plays a significant role in the diversification of the energy mix, achieving greater energy efficiency, supporting and accelerating economic growth and social development, creating employment opportunities, ensuring energy access and availability, promoting energy cooperation and rendering environmental benefits, thus

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

contributing to achieving sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the increased use and promotion of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, including solar-thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, wind, hydro, tidal, ocean and geothermal forms, could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of sustainable development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging that increased use of new and renewable sources of energy could offer increased access to modern energy services,

Noting that, in addition to increasing the efficiency of energy production and use, expanding the use of new and renewable sources of energy and advanced clean energy technology offers options that could improve global and local environmental conditions,

Recognizing that the current share of new and renewable energy in the global energy supply is still low, which is due, among other factors, to the high costs of many renewable energy technologies, particularly in their development phase, and underlining the critical contribution that a rapid reduction in these costs could make to the promotion of such technologies,

Recognizing the contributions of new and renewable sources of energy to the reduction of greenhouse gases and addressing climate change, which poses serious risks and challenges,

Noting that the global demand for energy continues to rise, while recognizing that the share of energy derived from new and renewable resources remains considerably below its significant potential despite recent increase, and underlining in this regard the need to continue to tap new and renewable sources of energy,

Emphasizing the need to take further action to mobilize the provision of adequate financial resources, of sufficient quality and arriving in a timely manner, as well as the transfer of advanced technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for providing efficient and wider use of energy sources, in particular new and renewable sources of energy,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing the need for the creation of an enabling environment at all levels for investment and sustained financing,

Acknowledging that the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council continue to play a pivotal role as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Welcoming efforts by Governments and institutions that have embarked on policies and programmes that seek to expand the use of new and renewable energy for sustainable development, and recognizing the contributions of regional initiatives, institutions and regional economic commissions in supporting the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in this respect,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the International Renewable Energy Agency, which aims at promoting the diffusion and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy,

Noting also with appreciation regional mechanisms and initiatives for energy cooperation and integration to encourage the use of new and renewable sources of energy such as, inter alia, the PetroCaribe Alternative Energy Source Financing Fund, the Mesoamerican integration and development project, the Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Programme, the energy initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Mediterranean Solar Plan, the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership, the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation, and the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate,

Noting with concern that millions of poor people are unable to afford to pay for modern energy services, even when those services are available, and emphasizing the need to address the challenge of access to and affordability of modern energy services for all, in particular the poor,

Emphasizing the need to promote an enabling environment for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including through the removal of obstacles at all levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Stresses* the urgent need to continue to increase the share of new and renewable energy in the global energy mix;

3. *Reaffirms* the need for the full implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[4] as the intergovernmental framework for sustainable development;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development, and takes into consideration the diversity of situations, national policies and specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Encourages* the development of viable market-oriented strategies that could result in the most rapid reduction of the cost of new and renewable energy and increase the competitiveness of those technologies, including through the adoption, as appropriate, of public policies for research, development and market deployment;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to intensify research and development, in support of energy for sustainable development, which will require increased commitment on the part of Governments and all other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, to deploy financial and human resources for accelerating research efforts;

7. *Encourages* efforts by Governments aimed at creating and developing an enabling environment at all levels to ensure the promotion and use of new and renewable sources of energy;

8. *Calls upon* Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the

[5] A/64/277.

increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development;

9. *Encourages* global, regional and national initiatives on new and renewable energies to promote access to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, for the poorest and to improve energy efficiency and conservation by resorting to a mix of available technologies, taking fully into account the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning energy for sustainable development;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of some Member States to establish national voluntary new and renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, and encourages others to do the same;

11. *Encourages* Member States to make greater use of effective policy tools such as voluntary national, subnational or regional goals, programmes and targets, as appropriate, to increase access to energy, energy efficiency and the share of renewable energies;

12. *Calls upon* Governments to take further action to mobilize the provision of financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building and the diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the African countries in promoting the development, production and use of new and renewable sources of energy, recognizing the special needs of Africa for reliable and affordable energy supplies and services;

14. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in their efforts to develop and utilize new and renewable energy, inter alia, through financial and technical assistance and capacity-building;

15. *Reiterates its call* for all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support, as appropriate, efforts aimed at the development of the energy sector in developing countries and countries with economies in transition on the basis of environment-friendly new and renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies, including beyond urban areas;

16. *Notes and encourages* ongoing activities related to the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system, and acknowledges the role of UN-Energy in promoting system-wide collaboration in the area of energy;

17. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to raise awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development, including the need for the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and the increased role they can

play in the global energy supply, particularly in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

18. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of financial resources, in a stable and predictable manner, and technical assistance, and to enhance the effectiveness and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of new and renewable sources of energy;

19. *Stresses* that the wider use and exploration of available and additional new and renewable sources of energy require technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account, inter alia, the initiatives taken by Member States and international organizations to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion and use of new and renewable energy, including measures to improve access to such technologies;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy".